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6.0 NOISE

An assessment of the potential noise impacts associated with the Hanford Energy Park Peaker (HEPP) is presented in this section. In May 2000, GWF Power Systems Company (GWF) applied to the California Energy Commission for permission to construct and operate a 98.7-megawatt (MW) combined-cycle power plant in its Hanford Energy Park (HEP) facility under the Small Power Plant Exemption (SPPE) provision. The 95-MW HEPP plant will be a simple-cycle plant located on the same parcel of land. Section 8.5 of the May 2000 SPPE application by GWF for the HEP contains extensive information on the existing noise environment and potential noise pollution and mitigation. Since this information is relevant to the HEPP, Section 8.5 of the SPPE application is included as Exhibit 6A. Figure 8.5-1 on page 8.5-7 of Exhibit 6A has been revised and is included as Figure 6-1. Figure 6-1 should be consulted whenever Figure 8.5-1 is cited in Exhibit 6A.

6.1 LOCAL NOISE REQUIREMENTS

The City of Hanford and Kings County have established noise regulations for industrial uses. These regulations address noise emission from an industrial facility at its property line and at noise-sensitive uses in the vicinity of the facility. These city and county noise standards for industrial facility are listed in the table on page 8.5-4 of Exhibit 6A.

6.2 NEAREST SENSITIVE RECEPTORS

Figure 6-1 is a map showing the HEPP and its surrounding area. Referring to Figure 6-1, the nearest noise-sensitive (residential) receptors are located to the northeast and southeast of the HEPP plant site on 10th Avenue. More distant sensitive receptors are to the northwest on 11th Avenue and a considerable distance to the south on 10th Avenue.

6.3 PROJECT NOISE LEVEL

The individual equipment for the HEPP plant is of the same type and manufacturer as the corresponding equipment for the SPPE plant, but considerably smaller in capacity. The total simple-cycle HEPP plant is also less complex than the combined-cycle SPPE plant. Therefore, the noise pollution level caused by the construction and operation of the HEPP plant will be substantially less than that caused by the SPPE plant. The expected noise levels at the sensitive receptors and at plant site boundaries due to the SPPE plant are given in the two tables on page 8.5-17 of Exhibit 6A. The maximum expected noise level during construction of the HEPP is given in the table on page 8.5-21 of Exhibit 6A and is expected to be similar to that projected for the SPPE.

6.4 PROPOSED MITIGATION

During construction and operation of the HEPP plant no significant noise impacts are expected to occur at noise-sensitive receptors. Thus, no additional mitigation measures are proposed beyond those implicit in the project design, including acoustical enclosure for the combustion turbine inlet air silencers and exhaust silencers. GWF will also perform an additional ambient noise

survey following commencement of operation to demonstrate that the HEPP conforms with applicable noise standards.